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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **AKZO NOBEL N.V.** [NL/NL]; Velperweg 76, NL-6824 BM Arnhem (NL).

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **TELSCHOW, Jeffrey, Earl** [US/US]; 47 Sunset Lane, Croton-on Hudson, NY 10520 (US).

(74) Agent: **SCHALKWIJK, Pieter, Cornelis**; Akzo Nobel N.V., Intellectual Property Dept. (Dept. AIP), P.O. Box 9300, NL-6800 SB Arnhem (NL).

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(54) Title: PURIFICATION/DECOLORIZATION TREATMENT FOR FATTY NITRILES

(57) Abstract: The present invention contemplates a process for the removal of impurities comprising amides, but which may include other impurities such as amines, from a solution of the nitrites and impurities. A reaction mixture is first formed and to that reaction mixture, 0.5 to 3wt% of approximately 60% H₂SO₄ is stirred in at room temperature and atmospheric pressure for a time effective for the removal of the amide impurities. Typically, after about 30 minutes, the amide impurity is removed into the lower, dark acid layer, probably as a salt. The remaining nitrile, after decantation or filtration, is still colored but is substantially free of amide. In a to second step, at room temperature or at a temperature of up to ~80°C, color can be removed from the nitrile by stirring the acid-washed nitrile with 0.5-5 wt% of clay (bentonite), charcoal, zeolitic type materials, mixtures thereof and the like.

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